

## CLAIMS

1           1.     A computer-based method for registering users of a central computer  
2 system, the method comprising:

3                 collecting at a remote computer system information relating to a user who  
4 wants to register at the central computer system;

5                 sending the collected information from the remote computer system to the  
6 central computer system;

7                 receiving at the central computer system a request from the user to register, the  
8 request including identification data;

9                 locating the collected information for the user using the identification data  
10 included in the request; and

11                 indicating that the user is registered and associating the located information  
12 with the registered user.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the collected information includes an  
2 electronic mail address and including sending an electronic mail message to the electronic  
3 mail address with instructions for registering at the central computer system.

1           3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic mail message includes a  
2 link to a web page of the central computer system.

1           4.     The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic mail message includes a  
2 link that identifies the information collected for the user.

1           5.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes information for  
2 identifying the remote computer system.

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1           6.     A method in a remote computer system for collecting information for  
2 users who are not registered with a central computer system, the method comprising:  
3           receiving the information from a user and storing the received information;  
4           determining whether the user is registered with the central computer system;  
5           when the user is not registered, receiving identification data from the user; and  
6           sending the stored information with the received identification data to the  
7 central computer system so that the central computer system can effect the registration of the  
8 user and association of the information with that user.

1           7.     The method of claim 6 wherein the central computer system sends an  
2 electronic mail message to the user that provides registration instructions.

1           8.     The method of claim 6 including when the user is not registered, asking  
2 the user whether they want to register.

1           9.     The method of claim 6 wherein the identification data includes an  
2 electronic mail address.

1           10.    A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a  
2 remote computer system to collect information for users who are not registered with a central  
3 computer system, by a method comprising:  
4           receiving the information from a user; and  
5           when the user is not registered at the central computer system,  
6           receiving identification data from the user; and  
7           sending the received information with the received identification data to  
8 the central computer system so that the central computer system can effect the registration of  
9 the user and association of the information with that user.

1           11.    The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the central  
2 computer system sends an electronic mail message to the user that provides registration  
3 instructions.

